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What is claimed is:

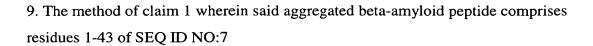
- 1. A method for identifying agents that are inhibitors of tau-beta amyloid complex formation comprising:
- (a) contacting a tau protein derived polypeptide and an aggregated beta-amyloid peptide in the presence and absence of a test agent; and
- (b) determining the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the presence and absence of the test agent; and
- (c) comparing the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the presence of the test agent with the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed in the absence of the test agent wherein a test agent which decreases the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex formed is an inhibitor.
- 2. The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 244-390 of SEQ ID NO:2
- 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues 186-332 of SEQ ID NO:4
- 4. The method of claim 1 wherein said tau derived polypeptide comprises residues
 186-279 of SEQ ID NO:6
 - 5. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-39 of SEQ ID NO:7
- 6. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-40 of SEQ ID NO:7
 - 7. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-41 of SEQ ID NO:7
 - 8. The method of claim 1 wherein said aggregated beta-amyloid peptide comprises residues 1-42 of SEQ ID NO:7

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- 10. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by scintillation proximity assay.
 - 11. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis.
- 12. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by turbidity measurement
 - 13. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by gel shift assay.
 - 14. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by antibody binding.
- 15. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by ELISA.
 - 16. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by Western blotting
- 25 17. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by fluorescence polarization.
 - 18. The method of claim 1 wherein the amount of tau-beta amyloid complex is determined by fluorescence polarization
 - 19. The method of claim 1 wherein the tau protein derived polypeptide is labeled.

